

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for persisting an offline address book, the method comprising representing **the offline address book as** textual information in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises** 8-bit character width[[s]].

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the offline address book's underlying file format remains unaltered.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the offline address book's underlying representation remains unaltered.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein low level string comparisons with the offline address book are able to be performed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the format is UTF-8.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the offline address book is **MAPI Messaging Application Programming Interface** compliant.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for persisting an offline address book, the method comprising representing **the offline address book as** textual information in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises an** 8-bit character width[[s]].

8. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying an offline address book, the method comprising: accepting textual information from the offline address book in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises an** 8-bit character width[[s]]; converting the textual information to a corresponding character set; and posting the converted textual information to an output mechanism.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the offline address book's underlying file format remains unaltered.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the offline address book's underlying representation remains unaltered.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein low level string comparisons with the offline address book are able to be performed.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the format is UTF-8.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the offline address book is **MAPI Messaging Application Programming Interface** compliant.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for displaying an offline address book, the method comprising: accepting textual information from the offline address book in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises an** 8-bit character width[[s]]; converting the textual information to a corresponding character set; and posting the converted textual information to an output mechanism.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for searching an offline address book, the method comprising: accepting a first textual information from the offline address book in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises an 8-bit character width[[s]]**; accepting a second textual information in a native character set representation; converting the first textual information to a corresponding character set; and comparing the converted first textual information to the second textual information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the offline address book's underlying file format remains unaltered.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the offline address book's underlying representation remains unaltered.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein low level string comparisons with the offline address book are able to be performed.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the format is UTF-8.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the offline address book is **MAPI Messaging Application Programming Interface** compliant.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for searching an offline address book, the method comprising: accepting a first textual information from the offline address book in a format, wherein the format allows for representation of greater than 256 characters using **two or more byte sequences wherein each sequence comprises an 8-bit character width[[s]]**; accepting a second textual information in a native character set representation; converting the first textual information to a corresponding character set; and comparing the converted first textual information to the second textual information.